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ABSTRACT

A follow-up study of a 10% (n=461) random sample of all persons who graduated from Miami-Dade Community College between July 1970 and June 1971 inclusive (n=4,620) was conducted in early 1976 in order to determine how many of the graduates entered the Florida State University System (SUS) and, of those who entered, how many graduated. Follow-up data on the study subjects were obtained from each of the nine SUS registrars. The data revealed: (1) a total of 298 students (171 men and 127 women) entered the SUS; (2) 205 students had graduated from the SUS while 32 were still enrolled; (3) 7 students had received advanced degrees; (4) 70 students were placed on academic probation at some time during their SUS experience; (5) 67 students transferred one or more times within the SUS; and (6) in summary, of the total sample, 66% entered the SUS while 45% earned a bachelor's degree. It should be noted that former Miami-Dade students who enrolled in private institutions within Florida or public and private institutions outside of Florida were not included in this follow-up. Flow charts illustrating student progress by institution and type of Associate Degree are appended. (JDS)

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRADUATES CONTINUE TO DO WELL

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Miami-Dade Community College

November 1976

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INTRODUCTION

One of the goals of a community college is to provide students with the opportunity to earn the first two years of their educational program in a manner comparable to that provided by the first two years at a four-year college or university so that the students may effectively transfer and continue with their education at the junior level at an upper level or senior institution. The transfer program at Miami-Dade enrolls approximately two-thirds of our students, with approximately one-third enrolled in the occupational programs. Over the years questions with respect to the graduation rates and the later college going experiences of the community college transfers have been addressed in a wide array of research. Most of the current research in this area has been summarized in a well-documented book presented by Alexander W. Astin, Preventing Students from Dropping Out, Jossey-Bass, 1973.

At Miami-Dade we have conducted a number of studies which suggest that approximately 40% of the full-time entering freshmen from a given fall term graduate at the end of a subsequent four-year period from Miami-Dade. Of course, many of these students have transferred to another institution prior to receiving a degree from Miami-Dade to continue their education so that we may safely assume that the 40% figure is a minimal graduation percentage for that entering group. A question often asked about students who graduate from a transfer program at a community college is: how many of those who earn degrees continue in their pursuit of higher education? Estimates of this number have been generated from a variety of sources historically at Miami-Dade, some from data provided by the State universities, some from self-reports by students regarding their intentions to continue their studies,

and some from educated guesses by knowledgeable persons. The data from the study conducted on the 1970-71 graduates at Miami-Dade approaches the question from a different vantage point. In a longitudinal study of this nature, a particular group of students is selected for study from a given period of time. Judgment is made with respect to how long a period of time should elapse before a follow-up of this group of students is conducted. It was decided that a period of time spaning five years following the June of their graduation would be sufficient to assess the questions that were of primary interest in this study. We wanted to know, for example, how many of the graduates from Miami-Dade entered the State University System and of those who entered, how many graduated. We wanted to know how many of the Associate in Arts compared with the Associate in Science students continued in higher education and of those, how many graduated. It was also of some interest to us to inquire as to the number of students who transferred within the State University System. Of all those students from this particular group, what numbers were placed on academic probation? Since a period of time permitting five years of further studies had elapsed, it was also reasonable to ask how many of the students had earned an advanced degree and also how many students were still enrolled in the pursuit of higher education. Tables II-IV summarize answers to these questions. This paper addresses these questions based on a representative sample of 461 of the more than 4,620 graduates for the 1970-71 year. It is necessary to keep in mind that we are following only those students who entered the State University System of Florida. Obviously, there are many students who pursue advanced education in private institutions within the State of Florida and in both public and private institutions outside of Florida.

Limited resources did not permit an analysis or follow-up of those students not enrolling in the State University System.

Looking at the questions asked in somewhat sequential order, let's direct ourselves to the question of continuing in the State University System (SUS). Of the total Associate in Arts and Associate in Science graduates, of which there were 451 in the sample out of 461, there were a total of 298 who entered the State University System with 171 men and 127 women represented in this group. Not unexpectedly, most went to Florida Atlantic University, since these were 1970-71 graduates from Miami-Dade who were seeking higher education prior to the opening of Florida International University. Despite the fact that FIU did not open until a year after this group graduated from Miami-Dade, there were still 44 who waited to enter FIU as their first university. There were also 44 students who entered at Florida State University, 36 at the University of South Florida, with only 3 attending Florida Technological University, and 2 attending the University of North Florida. The University of Florida drew heavily upon this group, attracting 70 graduates. Of the 298 who entered the SUS, there were a total of 205 who graduated and there are still 32 enrolled in the System. A total of 7 students had already earned an advanced degree, while it must be assumed that a fair proportion of the 32 currently enrolled will add to this total of those who had earned advanced degrees. Despite their overall success in getting through to their Bachelor's Degree at the SUS, there were 70 students who during their careers in the SUS were placed on academic probation. It is also noteworthy that a total of 67 students transferred one or more times within the State University System.

In summary, 66% of the sample of 1970-71 graduates used for this study entered the SUS, (72% of the AA graduates) while 45% earned a Bachelors degree

within the SUS. Detailed procedures followed in conducting the study are presented in the next section followed by the summary tables.

Procedures

Permanent record files which are stored for easy retrieval from computer tapes were searched for all persons who graduated from Miami-Dade during the year July 1970 - June 1971, inclusive. A total of 4,620 graduates was recorded. A 10% sample was arbitrarily decided upon in order to yield a number of approximately 500 (actual number for the study was 461) which was considered reasonable for the type of follow-up work involved by the SUS registrars. It was necessary to select only those with social security numbers and thought desirable to sort further for only those graduates who had Florida Twelfth Grade (FTG) scores. From the 2,511 graduates who had both a social security number and a FTG score a random selection was generated to yield 461 students.

The sample 2,511 graduates was compared to the total 4,620 graduates to assess for bias. In the sample there were more females, fewer with honors, 5% more graduates with AA degrees but no differences in percent by campus. In all, the sample from which the 461 were randomly drawn appears reasonably representative. Since the 461 were generated by a completely random sort, there is little reason to believe that a meaningful bias is present in the group selected for follow-up.

Nine decks of cards and a printout were generated and mailed in October of 1975 to each of the nine SUS registrars. Each was asked to supply transcripts as of the Fall Term 1975, providing a five-year span for this study. Transcripts were returned by seven Universities within a month, and all data were collected by February, 1976.

EXPLANATION OF SEVEN CHARACTERISTICS DISPLAYED IN TABLES II THRU IV

1. M-DCC AA/AS Graduates: Number of Associate in Arts/Associate in Science graduates in the sample.

2. Entered SUS Institution: Of the above, the number of graduates who have entered a State University System institution.

3. Transferred Within SUS: Of the number shown in Item 2, the number of students who transferred to another SUS institution.

4. Placed on Academic Probation: Of the number shown in Item 2, the number of students who were placed on academic probation (although the probation may have occurred at some institution other than the one listed at the top of the column).

5. Graduated From SUS Institution: Of the number shown in Item 2, the number of students who graduated from an SUS institution (although the graduation may have been from some institution other than the one listed at the top of the column).

6. Earned Advanced Degree: Of the number shown in Item 2, the number of students who earned an advanced degree (although this degree may have been earned from some institution other than the one listed at the top of the column).

7. Still Enrolled Fall 1975: Of the number shown in Item 2, the number of students who were still enrolled at some SUS institution during the 1975 fall term (although this enrollment may have occurred at some institution other than the one listed at the top of the column).

TABLE I

NUMBER OF SAMPLE 1970 M-DCC GRADUATES BY TYPE OF DEGREE AND SEX

DEGREE	TOTAL	SEX	
		Male	Female
Planned Certificate	9	0	9
Certificate of Completion	1	1	0
Associate in Science	51	30	21
Associate in Arts	400	223	177
Total	461	254	207

TABLE II

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE OF 1970 M-DCC ASSOCIATE IN ARTS GRADUATES
BY SEX AND INITIAL STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM INSTITUTION ENTERED

		FAU	FIU	FSU	FTU	UF	UNF	USF	ALL SUS INSTITUTIONS
1. M-DCC AA Graduates	Male 223 Female 177 Total 400								
2. Entered SUS Institution		Male 57 Female 41 Total 98	Male 23 Female 14 Total 37	Male 22 Female 22 Total 44	Male 3 Female 0 Total 3	Male 40 Female 30 Total 70	Male 0 Female 2 Total 2	Male 19 Female 16 Total 35	Male 164 Female 125 Total 289
3. Transferred Within SUS		Male 16 Female 13 Total 29	Male 2 Female 1 Total 3	Male 5 Female 3 Total 8	Male 1 Female 0 Total 1	Male 9 Female 9 Total 18	Male 0 Female 1 Total 1	Male 3 Female 3 Total 6	Male 36 Female 30 Total 66
4. Placed on Academic Probation		Male 25 Female 11 Total 36	Male 2 Female 1 Total 3	Male 6 Female 3 Total 9	Male 0 Female 0 Total 0	Male 9 Female 8 Total 17	Male 0 Female 0 Total 0	Male 4 Female 0 Total 4	Male 46 Female 23 Total 69
5. Graduated from SUS Institution		Male 37 Female 28 Total 65	Male 10 Female 7 Total 17	Male 18 Female 18 Total 36	Male 3 Female 0 Total 3	Male 32 Female 22 Total 54	Male 0 Female 1 Total 1	Male 13 Female 13 Total 26	Male 113 Female 89 Total 202
6. Earned Advanced Degree		Male 2 Female 2 Total 4	Male 0 Female 0 Total 0	Male 1 Female 0 Total 1	Male 0 Female 0 Total 0	Male 0 Female 1 Total 1	Male 0 Female 0 Total 0	Male 0 Female 1 Total 1	Male 3 Female 4 Total 7
7. Still Enrolled Fall 1975		Male 3 Female 1 Total 4	Male 11 Female 3 Total 14	Male 2 Female 1 Total 3	Male 0 Female 0 Total 0	Male 4 Female 2 Total 6	Male 0 Female 1 Total 1	Male 0 Female 2 Total 2	Male 20 Female 10 Total 30

TABLE III

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE OF 1970 M-DCC ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE GRADUATES BY SEX AND INITIAL STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM INSTITUTION ENTERED

		FAU	FIU	FSU	FTU	UF	UNF	USF	ALL SUS INSTITUTIONS
1. M-DCC AS Graduates	Male	30							
	Female	21							
	Total	51							
2. Entered SUS Institution	Male	1	5	0	0	0	0	1	7
	Female	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Total	1	7	0	0	0	0	1	9
3. Transferred Within SUS	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
4. Placed on Academic Probation	Male	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
5. Graduated from SUS Institution	Male	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Female	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Total	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
6. Earned Advanced Degree	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7. Still Enrolled Fall 1975	Male	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2

TABLE IV

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE OF 1970 M-DCC GRADUATES (Associate in Arts and Associate in Science)
BY SEX AND INITIAL STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM INSTITUTION ENTERED

1. M-DCC AA & AS Graduates — Male 253, Female 198, Total 451

	FAU	FIU	FSU	FTU	UF	UNF	USF	ALL SUS INSTITUTIONS
2. Entered SUS Institution	Male 58 Female 41 Total 99	Male 28 Female 16 Total 44	Male 22 Female 22 Total 44	Male 3 Female 0 Total 3	Male 40 Female 30 Total 70	Male 0 Female 2 Total 2	Male 20 Female 16 Total 36	Male 171 Female 127 Total 298
3. Transferred Within SUS	Male 16 Female 13 Total 29	Male 2 Female 1 Total 3	Male 5 Female 3 Total 8	Male 1 Female 0 Total 1	Male 9 Female 9 Total 18	Male 0 Female 1 Total 1	Male 4 Female 3 Total 7	Male 37 Female 30 Total 67
4. Placed on Academic Probation	Male 26 Female 11 Total 37	Male 2 Female 1 Total 3	Male 6 Female 3 Total 9	Male 0 Female 0 Total 0	Male 9 Female 8 Total 17	Male 0 Female 0 Total 0	Male 4 Female 0 Total 4	Male 47 Female 23 Total 70
5. Graduated from SUS Institution	Male 38 Female 28 Total 66	Male 11 Female 8 Total 19	Male 18 Female 18 Total 36	Male 3 Female 0 Total 3	Male 32 Female 22 Total 54	Male 0 Female 1 Total 1	Male 13 Female 13 Total 26	Male 115 Female 90 Total 205
6. Earned Advanced Degree	Male 2 Female 2 Total 4	Male 0 Female 0 Total 0	Male 1 Female 0 Total 1	Male 0 Female 0 Total 0	Male 0 Female 1 Total 1	Male 0 Female 0 Total 0	Male 0 Female 1 Total 1	Male 3 Female 4 Total 7
7. Still Enrolled Fall 1975	Male 3 Female 1 Total 4	Male 13 Female 3 Total 16	Male 2 Female 1 Total 3	Male 0 Female 0 Total 0	Male 4 Female 2 Total 6	Male 0 Female 1 Total 1	Male 0 Female 2 Total 2	Male 22 Female 10 Total 32

CARD I

DATA CARD FORMAT
GRADUATE FOLLOW-UP STUDY
SAMPLE OF 1970 GRADUATES (461)

1 - 7	Student Number
8 - 23	First Name
24	M. I.
27 - 46	Last Name
47	Requirement Code
49 - 51	Graduation Year - Term
52	Campus (1 = N, 2 = S, 3 = DT)
53	Honors Code
54 - 55	Degree
56 - 57	Program
58	Sex (1 = M, 2 = F)
59 - 60	FTG: Aptitude
61 - 62	English
63 - 64	Social Science
65 - 66	Natural Science
67 - 68	Math
69 - 71	Total Score
72 - 80	Social Security Number

CARD II FORMAT

Longitudinal Study
Sample of 1970 Graduates

CARD COLUMN		
1 - 9	----------	Social Security Number
47	----------	Enrolled in SUS (1) Yes (2) No
48	----------	Graduated SUS (1) Yes (2) No
49	----------	Graduate Degree (MA, LL. D, Ph D, etc.) (1) Yes (2) No
50, 51, 52	----------	G.P.A. at SUS
53	----------	Currently Enrolled (75-1) in SUS (1) Yes (2) No
54	----------	Transferred Among SUS Institutions (1) One Transfer (2) Two Tranfers (3) Three Transfer (4) Four Transfers or more
55	----------	Academic Probation (1) Yes (2) No
56 - 57	----------	Major at SUS for those who graduated
59	----------	Student who is or was enrolled in graduate work but did not complete (1) Yes (2) No
58	----------	State Universities Code

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